

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant United States Disease Prevention Program Flexible Funding for Utah's Public Health Programs

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) provides funding for health problems in Utah that are the leading causes of death and illness. PHHSBG dollars fund 4 different Utah health issues. Fifty-three percent (53%) of funds go directly to local communities.

PHHS Block Grant funds allow Utah to use dollars **where** we need them and **when** we need them based on recommendations from our Advisory Committee. The funds are heavily concentrated in the areas of heart disease and stroke prevention, injury prevention, and public health assessment. Examples follow of how we use PHHSBG funds to serve our state's unique health needs.



Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (HDSP) – LHD Partnership for HDSP

- Working with the state's 12 local health departments (LHDs), Utah has reduced the number of coronary heart disease deaths in 10 out of the 12 local health districts by 5 to 25 percent. It has additionally reduced the number of stroke disease deaths in 5 out of the 12 local health districts by 2 to 26 percent.
- Utah is addressing **childhood obesity** with the Gold Medal School Initiative. Since 2001, the Gold Medal School Initiative has been implemented in over 175 Utah elementary schools, impacting 84,295 students, 2,170 teachers, and 150,000 parents by providing healthier school environments and policies to prevent further childhood obesity. Utah plans to implement GMS in at least 80% of schools by 2008.



Violence and Injury Prevention (VIP) – LHD Partnership for VIP and Rape and Sexual Assault

- \$ Over 55,000 Utah children and/or their parents annually receive education and resources to prevent injuries or death from motor vehicle crashes, drowning, falls, fires, or gunshot wounds.
- \$ Almost 4,000 elderly Utahns receive in-home assistance to prevent falls.
- \$ Over 9,000 Utahns receive rape crisis or prevention services.



Public Health Assessment

- \$ Utah uses PHHSBG funding to support better use of the public health data systems in Utah, including birth and death records, hospital and emergency department patient discharge records, on-going health surveys, including the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and Utah's Health Status Survey. This allows for:
 - public access to timely, meaningful on-line public health data;
 - ability to monitor trends in health status changes in a timely manner, ie, tobacco use, obesity, insurance coverage, and then to develop targeted public health interventions;
 - state legislators, local boards of health, and local health officers access to timely meaningful data to guide state and local decisions about public health priorities.



Dr. David N. Sundwall, M.D., Executive Director, Utah Department of Health:
"We use PHHSBG to address major public health problems in Utah using innovation and partnerships that go well beyond what federal categorical funding permits. This funding is critical to our success in reducing death and illness for Utah residents."

Contact Information

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